

SITUATION REPORT NO. 13
INCIDENT NO. 2002-040
DATE: July 7, 2002 TIME: 12:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Drought/Fires – The Governor issued a state fire emergency declaration on May 30, 2002, and a state drought emergency declaration on July 1, 2002.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has received reports of two fatalities, one of which occurred on May 2 and the other on May 26. To date, a total of 10 injuries have occurred during response to various fires throughout the state.
3. DAMAGES: The National Weather Service (NWS) forecast for July 7 calls for widespread showers and thunderstorms across North Dakota. A few storms may contain very heavy rainfall in the far south central and southeastern areas of the state.

Due to extreme fuel conditions, 22 southern North Dakota counties will remain in the extreme category of the Fire Danger Index while the remainder of the state will be in the low category. Counties in the extreme category until further notice include: Golden Valley, Billings, Slope, Bowman, Stark, Hettinger, Adams, Oliver, Morton, Burleigh, Grant, Sioux, Emmons, Kidder, Stutsman, Logan, LaMoure, McIntosh, Dickey, Ransom, Sargent and Richland.

On July 7, the National Interagency Fire Council (NFIC) ranked the Kraft Complex in Sioux and Grant Counties as the Number One priority fire in the nation. This designation places the complex as the priority for receiving firefighting resources. U.S. Forest Service officials place containment of the 16-fire complex at 80 percent.

A NFIC report indicated that firefighters on July 6 made good progress constructing fire lines and mopping up fire within the Kraft Complex. Firefighters observed active fire behavior and flare ups in the Tenbrooke Fire. They were able to save residences threatened by the fire. However, two outbuildings were confirmed lost during flareups. An air tanker was used in support of ground operations.

U.S. Forest Service officials estimate 48,000 acres have burned within the Kraft Complex. Fires and acres destroyed are as follows: Kraft and Tenbrooke Fires, 36,000 acres; Kenel Again, 6,000 acres; 32 Alpha Bravo, 3,900 acres; Udell, 1,600 acres; Bale II, 1,074 acres; Twin II, 285 acres; Pat Henderson, 30 acres; School's Out, 20 acres; Maher Fire, 20 acres; and six small fires, 10 acres.

U.S. Forest Service officials reported a fire one mile south of Fort Yates occurred during the evening of July 6.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: Prairie Knights Casino and Lodge temporarily sheltered Porcupine residents.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Porcupine residents were allowed to return to their homes on July 6 after the 32 Alpha-Bravo Fire, caused by a July 4th lightning strike, came within 100 yards of the Sioux County town. Sioux County law enforcement officials lifted the evacuation order and reopened N.D. Highway 6. Firefighters estimate 12 residents had been evacuated.

Firefighting efforts have required utilization of water tanker trucks and tanks placed in Selfridge by the N.D. Department of Transportation (DOT). Resources include a flatbed with two 550-gallon tanks and a 6,000-gallon and a 3,500-gallon water tanker truck. A DOT road grader has been placed on standby.

N.D. National Guard resources currently in use at Kraft Complex include: five tractor trucks with three 40-ton trailers, two 6,000-gallon water tanks and three graders. The Graner Bottoms Fire in Morton County required three tractor trucks with 40-ton trailers, one 2-½ yard loader and two bulldozers. These resources were pulled from the fire on July 6. National Guard aviation assets used in response to both fires include two UH-1 Huey helicopters with 180-gallon Bambi buckets.

Staff members from the N.D. Game and Fish Department are monitoring the Graner Bottom Fire in Morton County, which is under control.

State Radio Communications has been providing radios to local responders.

Fire Aviation Safety and Fire Prevention Teams from the U.S. Forest Service have been assessing conditions.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.

9. OTHER: Appropriate state, local, tribal, federal and private entity emergency operations plans (EOPs) and procedures have been implemented.

The N.D. Rural Fire Mitigation Guide and the N.D. Rangeland Fire Danger Index are posted on the N.D. Division of Emergency Management web site at: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem/>.

Situation Reports published by N.D. Division of Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem/>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director